

Creating a Concept Map

Session Two

The group has 30 minutes to complete the four phases.

As before to facilitate the four phases, someone should accept the role of

- **Scribe.** To write legibly words and phrases on the Post-It® notes.
- **Arranger.** To place and group the sticky notes as directed by the group.
- **Drawer.** To create the permanent concept map form with boxes or ovals and lines.

While continuing to participate in group discussion and decision-making.

At the conclusion. 1) Write the day's date on your permanent Concept Map, 2) write the group name on your Map, and 3) sign your names to the Map.

1. **Brainstorming phase.** As a group brainstorm on the question, "What is poverty?" List concepts, themes, facts, terms, and ideas using the large Post-It® notepad, one per note. Post the notes on the newsprint sheet provided so all can be read and seen. Keep the items as concise as possible: a single word, or short phrase. Remember this is *brainstorming*. Do not interrupt the flow with discussions about importance, redundancy, relationships at this time.
2. **Organizing phase.** Together organize like items into groups and sub-groups in hierarchical arrangements: from the most general, most inclusive concepts to the most specific, least general concepts. You may add terms that represent these higher categories. Also feel free to rearrange item and add related items that you didn't have originally. And it is okay that some concepts will fall into multiple groupings. This will become important later. For now, simply make duplicate items to populate the groups.
3. **Layout phase.** On the second newsprint sheet, arrange the groups in a manner that represents your collective understanding of their interrelationships and connections. Use a consistent hierarchy in which the most important, inclusive concepts are at the top and heading their related sub-groups, if any. Within sub-groups, place closely related items near to each other. In the next phase you will connect these items as simple sentences that show the relationships between them. Feel free to rearrange things at any time in order to reach agreement on the layout.
4. **Wrap Up phase.** After your group is satisfied with an arrangement of items that conveys the meaning and ramifications of "poverty" as understood by the group, you need to convert this "sticky" note version of the concept map into a permanent form. Use the second and larger drawing sheet to draw your map using ovals or rectangles to encircle the items and lines with arrows to link concepts that are related. Write a word or short phrase near the lines to specify the relationships. Feel free to use colors, calligraphy, line thickness, etc. At the conclusion, at the bottom of the Map write the date, the name of your group and each sign the completed Map.